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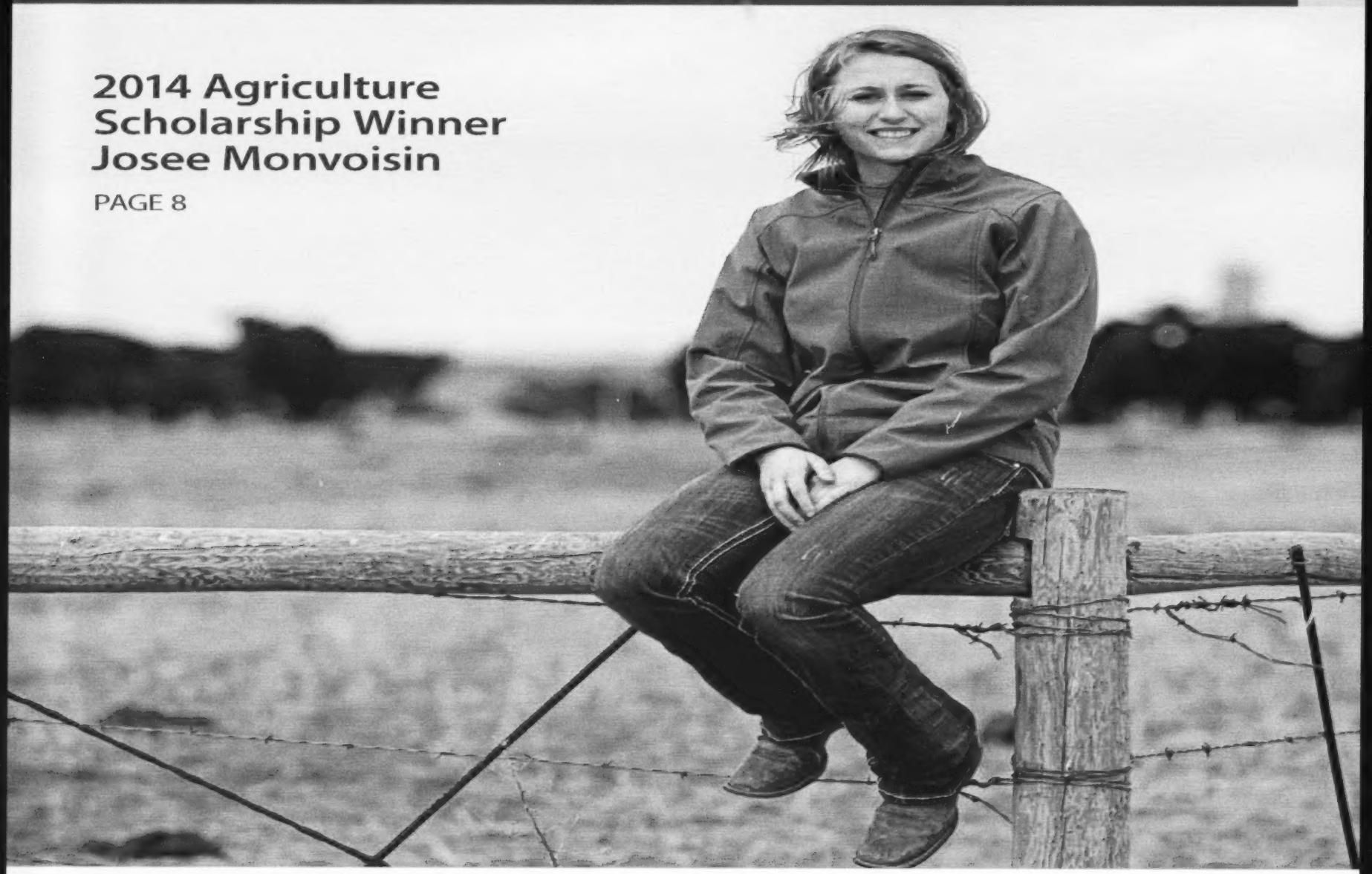
Agriview



2014 Agriculture Scholarship Winner Josee Monvoisin

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Government of Saskatchewan

Minister's Message

Lyle Stewart

June is a busy month for farmers and ranchers in Saskatchewan, perhaps even more so with the later start to seeding. Hopefully, like last year, we will be fortunate with good weather, a long fall and another good crop.

Recently Environment Minister Ken Cheveldayoff and I announced The Southern Conservation Land Management Strategy which is a modern, science based approach to land management that strives to balance public and private ownership. As a result of this new strategy agricultural lessees will now have the opportunity to purchase eligible parcels of Crown land previously designated under The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA). All WHPA-designated land in southern Saskatchewaa has been evaluated using a science based ecological assessment tool and has been classified into three categories:

- Approximately 1.7 million acres with high ecological value will not be available for sale;
- Approximately 1.3 million acres with moderate ecological value may be available for sale to current lessees with a conservation easement; and
- Approximately 525,000 acres with lower ecological value may be available for sale to current lessees without a conservation easement.

We hope to better balance the needs of agriculture, environment and conservation interests.

Not all land classified as low or moderate will be available for sale. An additional review will occur to assess other factors that may influence land eligible for sale.

By taking a more science based approach to land management we hope to better balance the needs of agriculture, environment and conservation interests. The new strategy will direct seven per cent of the proceeds from the sale of WHPA lands to the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund to support conservation and habitat protection projects.

Farmers and ranchers have been outstanding stewards of this land for generations. I believe this land will continue to be managed in a sustainable way whether it continues to have a WHPA designation, a conservation easement or sold without restriction. It will always be in the best interest of our farmers and ranchers operations to manage land so that it is a productive asset in their operation. Land that is sold will help build equity for farmers and ranchers and provide long-term security for their entire operation.

Agriculture crown lessees with land that previously had the WHPA designation will receive a letter with information on the land classifications, purchase options and the sale process. If lessees choose not to purchase their saleable crown land, they may continue leasing it. If lessees have questions about their land, they can contact the Ministry of Agriculture at 1-844-416-9160 or **moalandsbranch@gov.sk.ca**.

In closing, I would like to thank all the agriculture, environment and conservation stakeholders that we worked with to develop this strategy. ■

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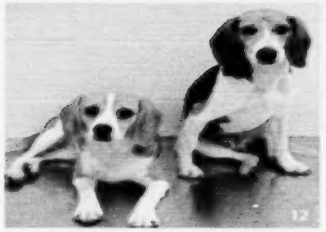

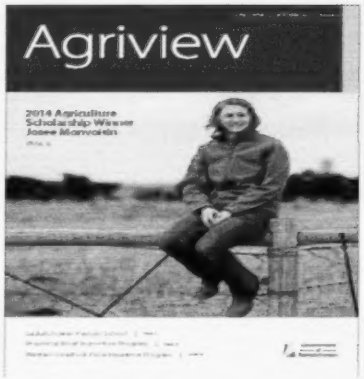

Cover: 2014 Agriculture Scholarship Grand Prize Winner Josee Monvoisin at her family farm near Gravelbourg, SK. For more information on the Agriculture Student Scholarship, turn to page 8.

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Timing is critical to an effective fungicide application

Faye Dokken-Bouchard, MSc, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Plant Disease
Crops and Irrigation Branch

So you have a fungicide application penciled in for 2014, but don't know when to make the call? Take the guess-work out and look at the crop instead of the calendar.

Disease incidence was generally lower in 2013 but, because most pathogens can survive several seasons in soil, crop residue or seed, there is still potential for disease in or around fields where it occurred before. Weather is critical to disease development, as most diseases need or prefer moist conditions to produce spores or cause infection. By considering the disease risk in the current crop and the weather this season, along with the fungicide cost and crop value, a decision can be made whether to spray or not.

Aschochyta blight on field peas. On pulses, the blight can spread throughout the season. Repeated fungicide applications may be necessary to prevent additional disease cycles.

The next step is proper timing.

Certain diseases, such as the ascochyta blight in pulses or the leaf spotting diseases in cereals, can spread throughout the season. If early symptoms are observed, additional disease cycles may be prevented with early or repeated fungicide applications. Pulse yield and quality are most affected by ascochyta blight during flowering, and the flag leaf stage is most critical for yield development in cereals. Therefore, fungicide application for those diseases will have the most economic benefit at those critical stages.

Other diseases, such as sclerotinia white mould in canola and fusarium head blight (FHB) in wheat, have limited opportunity to cause disease during the season because the crop is most susceptible to infection during flowering. By the time symptoms are observed, it is too late to control the disease. Therefore, the application must take place before infection occurs. For canola, the most flowers can be protected at the 30-per-cent-bloom stage. For wheat, application should be made when the heads are fully emerged, but before 50 per cent of the heads on the main stem flower.

Product labels must always be followed for proper timing and application. Refer to the *2014 Guide to Crop Protection* for product-specific information. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Faye Dokken-Bouchard, Provincial Specialist, Plant Disease at 306-787-4671 or faye.bouchard@gov.sk.ca.

Improve your field diagnostic skills: attend Crop Diagnostic School 2014

Shannon Chant
Regional Crops Specialist
Regional Services Branch

Erin Campbell
Regional Crops Specialist
Regional Services Branch

Sherrilyn Phelps
Regional Crops Specialist
Regional Services Branch

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is excited to be partnering with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, SaskCanola, SaskFlax, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers and Western Grains Research Foundation to hold the 2014 Crop Diagnostic School. The focus of the school is to increase producers' overall agronomic knowledge using a hands-on approach.

The one-day workshop will give participants the opportunity to hone their field diagnostic skills working directly with real plants and insects. The six focus areas for this year's school are:

- Insect scouting and identification;
- Disease scouting and identification;
- Weed identification;
- Crop establishment and staging;
- Fertility/soils/nodulation; and
- Herbicide injury symptoms and application technology.

This year's event will be held at two locations over four days: the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Farm at Scott on July 22 and 23 (Dark Brown Soil Zone) and the Melfort Research Farm on July 29 and 30 (Black Soil Zone). The day begins with registration at 8 a.m. and runs until 4:30 p.m. The cost is $140 per person (includes lunch). The event will be held regardless of the weather, so attendees should come prepared.

This will be a great opportunity to take pictures, so don't forget to bring your camera. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are pending for certified crop advisors. Sweep nets and resource books can be purchased at the event (cash or cheque only).

To register, visit **www.prairiecca.ca** and follow the link under Crop Diagnostic School 2014. Space is limited so register early to ensure a spot. ■

This year's Crop Diagnostic School will be held at the AAFC Scott Research Farm on July 22 and 23, and at the Melfort Research Farm on July 29 and 30.

FOR MORE INFO

Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Saskatchewan adopts DriftWatch

Geoff Wilson, M.Sc., PAg
Provincial Specialist, Apiculture
Crops and Irrigation Branch

A new, online tool to promote communication between pesticide applicators and producers with sensitive crops is now available in Saskatchewan. DriftWatch will allow producers to highlight areas needing special protection from pesticide drift so that pesticide applicators know these locations before making application decisions.

Some of the areas of concern include honeybees, organics, orchards and other specialty crops. Producers will be able to upload their locations of concern to an online mapping system. The individuals and companies applying pesticides can then identify these locations in an easy-to-use mapping system and then make informed pesticide application decisions with this additional knowledge.

Adoption and use of this system by registering sites is not a guarantee that there will be no future pesticide incidents. DriftWatch is a risk mitigation tool that will open up a dialogue on the best options to reduce the risk of pesticide damage. This system is intended for agricultural producers and not home owners or people on sites of less than half an acre.

DriftWatch was developed by Perdue University in North Carolina and is now run by a non-profit organization. Saskatchewan Agriculture has worked with industry to make the software available to Saskatchewan producers and applicators. This system is free to use for both the producer with sensitive areas and the pesticide applicator. It is currently in use in the United States in 11 states, primarily in the Midwest. Saskatchewan is the first to adopt such a communication tool in Canada. To upload your land location, go to **www.driftwatch.com**, register as a user, fill out some characteristics of the location (i.e. honeybees, organics, etc.) and draw your location on the online map. The Ministry will be promoting DriftWatch with industry associations and at producer events throughout the year. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Visit fieldwatch.com/; or driftwatch.org/.

Pesticide safety and beneficial insects

Joanne Kowalski, MSc, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist
Regional Services Branch

Honeybees and other beneficial insects face many outside threats related to agriculture production, including pesticide applications and dust created by some seed treatments.

Saskatchewan has a vibrant honey production industry; we boast the highest level of honey production (approx. 185 lb. per colony) and the second-highest number of honey bee colonies (100,000) in Canada. There are 749 beekeepers in the province, with 110 considered to be commercial producers. Together they produced 18.9 million pounds of honey in 2013. Beekeepers are scattered throughout the province, but the highest density is in the northeastern and east central regions, which are also areas high in canola production. Studies have shown that honeybee colonies can contribute to an increase in canola yield through pollination.

Honeybees make up only a portion of beneficial insects; the rest exist in the wild. In order to protect these 'free' partners in crop production, simple measures can be taken:

- Always read and follow pesticide label instructions;
- Monitor environmental conditions to minimize drift;
- Use equipment that reduces drift;
- Treat only target areas;
- Practice integrated pest management; and
- Observe pollinator behaviour to minimize exposure.

Reported damage to honeybees from seed treatments that contain neonicotinoids (mostly on canola) is minimal in Saskatchewan. Information on reducing the risk to pollinators from treated seed can be found on the Health Canada web site.

Knowing where beehives are located is imperative in the prevention of damage. In order to facilitate this, a web-based bee locator system called Driftwatch has been initiated through the Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholder partners.

Always keep in mind that pesticide safety on the farm is vital not only to beneficial insects but also to producers who handle the chemicals and farm residents, cattle and other farm animals. For specific information on the safe handling of farm chemicals, refer to the *2014 Guide to Crop Protection*, pages 11 to 16. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Visit hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/alt_formats/pdf/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/pollinator-protection-pollinisateurs/pollinator-protection-pollinisateurs-eng.pdf.

Simple measures can be taken to protect honeybees and the other beneficial insects that pollinate crops.

CSIDC Irrigation Field Day

Gary Kruger, PAg
Irrigation Agrologist
Crops and Irrigation Branch

The Canada Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) will hold its annual irrigation field day and tradeshow on Thursday, July 10, 2014, in Outlook. The highlights of the 2014 event are soybean agronomy, variable rate irrigation pivots and cereal and canola variety trials.

Specifically, the day's events will include a view of the ongoing regional and co op irrigated variety trials and the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation's variety adaption trials for cereals, oilseeds, pulse and forage crops, agronomy trials, as well as corn trials. A canola establishment method demonstration and a nitrogen rate on canola trial will be seen as well as a flax mycorrhizal study. Details of the biobed used for sprayer tank cleanout and greenhouse gas research will also be viewed. In addition, the tour will feature variable rate irrigation (VRI) technology, which has been installed on five pivots at the centre. Several irrigation companies will be in attendance to explain their unique VRI features.

A morning field tour will provide an overview of the projects currently underway at CSIDC. In the afternoon, tours will focus on efficient application of water and automation of pivot operation with the use of the VRI systems.

The morning field tour gets underway.

Certified crop advisors will be able to earn Continuing Education Units at the event. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with a tradeshow. A morning tour begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. The afternoon tours will begin at 1:30 p.m. There is no charge for admission. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Gary Kruger, Irrigation Agrologist, at 306-867-5524 or gary.kruger@gov.sk.ca.

Controlling field horsetail

Erin Campbell, MSc, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Watrous
Regional Services Branch

Horsetails are not common agricultural weeds, but can be difficult to control once established in an area. Patches typically establish in low, wet areas with high water tables or ditches and then spread into other areas of a field. Horsetail is unique because it does not reproduce by seed but through the production of spores. In the spring, field horsetail *(Equisetum arvense)* produce fertile brownish spikes with a singular cone shape on top that will release spores. These stems then die back and non-fertile branched, fern-like stalks of bright green emerge from the soil. Scouring rush *(Equisetum hyemale)* produces only green pencil-like stalks with the spore body at the tip, but these stalks remain green throughout the growing season. A recognizable characteristic of both plants is the hollow stem that can be pulled apart in distinct segmented pieces.

Vegetative (left) and reproductive (right) growth stage of field horsetail. Picture Source: M. Ferguson (left) and Saskatchewan Agriculture (right).

Options for controlling horsetails are few. The perennial growth habit of horsetails allows them to establish easily and persist in an area due to the development of fleshy roots called rhizomes. Encouraging the development of healthy crops or perennial grass stands in an infested area can provide competition to suppress the weed. Cultivation provides little benefit unless intense. Tillage can move tubers attached to the rhizomes into other areas of the field. Once transplanted into another wet area of the field, the tuber can establish a new patch.

Herbicide options for control of horsetails are limited and can be expensive due the higher rates needed to provide control. Amitrol 240 can provide control in fallowed, non-cropped shelterbelt areas and for spot treatments where the crop is sacrificed. Some formulations of MCPA may provide some limited control in registered crops such as flax, wheat, barley, rye and oats by suppressing top growth. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Refer to the *Guide to Crop Protection*;
Contact a Saskatchewan of Agriculture Regional Office; or
Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Discover the importance of Native Prairie: attend a family-oriented pasture tour

Trevor Lennox, MAg, PAg
Regional Forage Specialist, Swift Current
Regional Services Branch

This will be the 16th consecutive year that Saskatchewan Agriculture and Saskatchewan Environment have declared a provincial Native Prairie Appreciation Week, which will run from June 15 to 21, 2014. The purpose of Native Prairie Appreciation Week is to raise awareness and appreciation of native prairie ecosystems and their importance to Saskatchewan's environment and agricultural sectors.

The major event of the week will be the **Society for Range Management's annual tour "From Roots to Shoots"** which will be held **June 19 to 20 at Val Marie**. The keynote speaker is Barry Adams, a senior range specialist with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, who will be sharing his experiences through a presentation entitled "Sharing the Landscape—a work in progress".

The outdoor experience will include tour stops at Grasslands National Park and the Orin Balas ranch, which is a working prairie landscape.

Participants will learn about native prairie restoration and the impact of fire on native prairie, riparian and upland range health indicators, as well as participating in the famous plant identification challenge.

A youth component has been added to the tour this year, and participants are encouraged to bring their children so the whole family can experience native prairie firsthand. The Kids' Discovery Tour (ages five to 15) will include geocaching, a name that plant contest and grazing cartoons. There is also a licensed daycare in Val Marie where parents can leave their very young children.

For further information on the "From Roots to Shoots" tour and other Native Prairie Appreciation Week activities, visit **www.pcap-sk.org/NPAW**, or contact Nadia at: 306-946-3219. Register early to avoid disappointment. Deadline to register is June 16, 2014.

There will be lots of other activities planned across the province during Native Prairie Appreciation Week. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Follow the social media tag #NPAW14; or
Visit the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan website at www.pcap-sk.org.

This year's tour will visit Grasslands National Park and the Orin Balas ranch.

Saskatchewan Pasture Tour 2014

Charlotte Ward, PAg
Forage Specialist
Regional Services Branch, Yorkton

The tour will visit two ADOPT projects and then move on to the ranches of successful producers before ending at the DU Touchwood Hills Conservation Ranch.

This year, the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour will take place Thursday, August 7, in the Yorkton/Ituna/Kelliher/Touchwood Hills area.

This event was previously a two-day school—one day in the field, one day in the classroom—but due to the popularity of the field portion, the event has been changed to a one day field tour.

The tour begins with two Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) projects at the East Central Research Farm in Yorkton. The first compares two seeding dates of annual cereal varieties for greenfeed. The second looks at rejuvenating alfalfa/brome grass stands by introducing legumes or applying commercial fertilizer. Nearby, the Beaverdale Beef Producer Club has an ADOPT project comparing fertility treatments on old meadow bromegrass pastures.

Lorne Klein, PAg
Forage Specialist
Regional Services Branch, Weyburn

The next tour stops are in the Ituna/Kelliher area to view the pasture and ranch management practices of successful producers. These include perennial pasture management, annual crops in rotation, bale grazing, stockpiled perennial forage for early winter grazing, winter supplement feeding, high stock-density management, grazing high percentage alfalfa and pasture pipelines.

The final stop is at the Ducks Unlimited Touchwood Hills Conservation Ranch where invasive weed control, direct seeding legumes to rejuvenate old grass stands, and riparian and wetland health and management will be discussed. The day wraps up with a beef barbecue at the ranch, followed by the return to Yorkton.

The tour and the information presented cover a wide range of topics. Producers will have the opportunity to learn from other producers and to network with specialists in the field. Registration is $80/person and is limited to 40 producers. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Charlotte Ward, Regional Forage Specialist, Yorkton at 306-786-1608; charlotte.ward@gov.sk.ca or;
The Saskatchewan Forage Council at 306-969-2666 or office@saskforage.ca.

Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship – Winner

The Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship, currently in its fourth year, helps give young people a chance to explore the growing agriculture industry. The 2014 winning scholarship was available to students in Grade 12 and recent graduates entering agriculture-related post-secondary studies this year. The grand prize scholarship is $4,000 and runner-up scholarships are $2,000. Applicants had to produce a three-minute creative video or write a well-researched, fact-based 1,000 word essay that showcased one of four themes: agriculture solutions for a growing world, farmers and ranchers as environmental stewards, safe food that is responsibly produced or agriculture as a modern, forward-looking industry.

Josée Monvoisin didn't have to look far for inspiration when preparing her video application for the Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship program.

The 17 year old just had to step outside to her family's Gravelbourg area operation to illustrate how farmers and ranchers are good stewards and produce safe food in a responsible manner.

"Our family has been farming and ranching in southern Saskatchewan for five generations," Josée says in her application video. "Throughout the years, technology has changed but our family's role in caring for the land and producing the highest quality beef and grains has largely remained the same."

Josée was busy helping with branding in April when she learned she had been selected as the winner of the $4,000 grand prize scholarship. Her winning video was filmed in minus 30 C temperatures with the help of her mom.

The Gravelbourg High School student is a passionate advocate for agriculture and loves answering questions when people unfamiliar with the industry visit the farm. "Educating people is the way to go, especially kids," Josee says. "I enjoy explaining what I do and how farming and ranching works and where your food comes from."

Josée said it was easy to choose the theme for her application video, in part because she has witnessed her dad's lifelong commitment to stewardship and openness to new ideas. In her video, she explains how the unique identification tag on a calf will follow that animal from birth to slaughter, discusses feed and preventative vaccines, shows a geothermic watering hole that uses no electricity and reduces a producer's impact on the environment, and talks about how they utilize and preserve native grasses through rotational grazing.

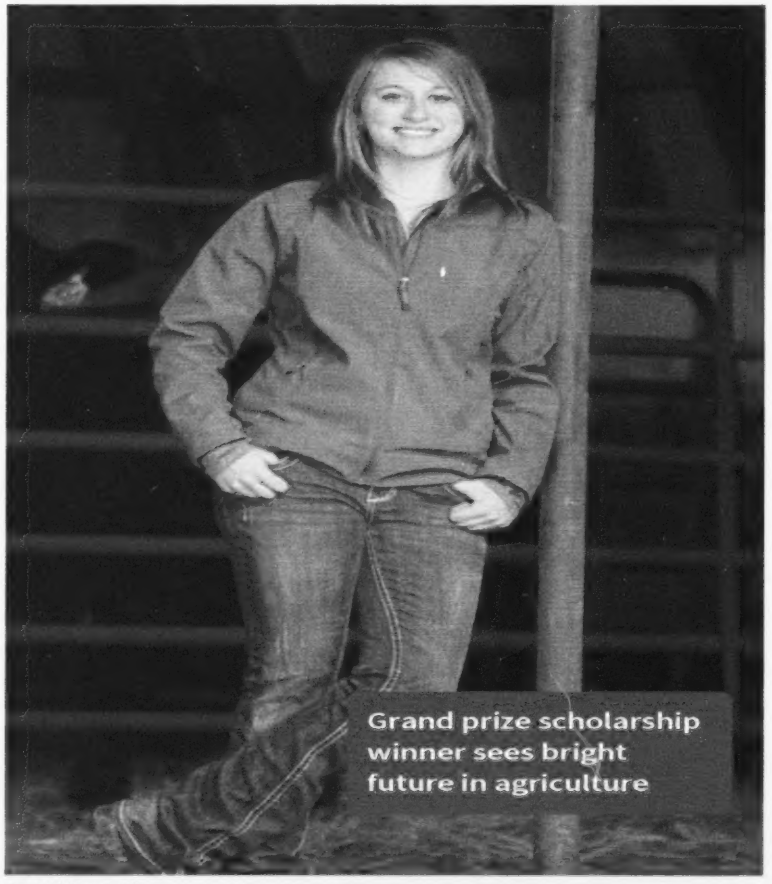
She also discusses how grain and cattle production work together, and how her family practices environmental stewardship on the farming side of the operation through practices such as soil testing and use of global positioning system technology.

"At the end of the day I'm choosing to further my education in agriculture because I'm passionate about finding new and innovative solutions to better farming and ranching practices in Saskatchewan," says Josée.

Josée says she showed her winning video to family connections in Australia, who were impressed at not only the scholarship program but at the Ministry's efforts to increase agriculture awareness.

She has long known she wanted to pursue a career in agriculture, where she sees many opportunities due to the never-ending global demand for food. Josée, who is interested in agricultural entrepreneurship, will attend the University of Saskatchewan's College of Agriculture and Bioresources this fall to study agribusiness.

The enthusiastic student is also involved in sports, 4-H, Quarter Horse associations, student council, and volunteer activities at school and in the community. A reference letter from one of Josée's teachers describes her as "motivated, hard-working, spirited and talented" in addition to being a great leader and a positive role model. ■



Josée Monvoisin

FOR MORE INFO

Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/scholarship to learn more about the Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship.

Saskatchewan Agriculture Student Scholarship – Runners-up

Hannah Friesen

As a fifth generation farmer from Laird, Hannah Friesen is proud to be following in her family's footsteps as she pursues a career in agriculture. She submitted a story demonstrating that agriculture has always been the foundation of opportunity in our province, declaring that her story didn't start in the hospital, or when two people fell in love—it "started on the farm." She explained that from the time her great grandparents settled in Saskatchewan 120 years ago, until today, agriculture has been the backbone of the provincial economy, providing endless opportunities for young people.

Friesen also spoke of the need for today's youth to step up and take a leadership role in the industry, asserting that "the agriculture industry requires the energy and fervour of youth... it needs people who look beyond the spectrum of reality and the so called 'possible', for it is the impossible that dazzles, that changes the world."

Upon graduation from Waldheim school this spring, she will be attending the College of Agriculture and Bioresources at the University of Saskatchewan, where she plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. She is ready to take on an ACvocate role as she continues her education this fall—her stance is simple: "count me in!" ■

Sara Grassick

Sarah Grassick understands that agriculture isn't just farming and ranching—it is everything from research to agribusiness—stating that no matter your interests, in agriculture "there is a career for you". Grassick submitted a video application that showcased her passion and enthusiasm for the industry, stating that she "grew up with agriculture in [her] blood".

Grassick has been actively involved with 4-H and has proven that she is a talented public speaker. From her experience growing up on a farm near Prince Albert, she sees the need to share her story and has done so by participating in Skills Canada and volunteering at Progressive Agriculture Safety Days. These skills will serve her well as she continues to develop as a future leader of the agricultural industry.

"The reason why I am so passionate about agriculture is because it is what sets our province apart from the others in Canada," explained Grassick, "I want to help motivate people in Saskatchewan and show them that agriculture is our future."

This fall, Grassick will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. ■

Miranda Heidecker

Miranda Heidecker credits 4-H for growing her passion for agriculture. Through her experience at the National 4-H Conference in Toronto, Heidecker gained an understanding of what sustainable agriculture means for the future of the industry. Her story explained how innovation has positioned Saskatchewan producers as leaders in feeding a growing world.

"Saskatchewan's successes came about because of individuals in our society who possessed the passion and the insightfulness to look past the challenges and see solutions."

Growing up in the small town of Middle Lake, she understands that she has a role to play in moving the industry forward, stating "we, as the generation of tomorrow, are needed to feed the world... even if I am just one of 8 billion people, I am more than excited to be a part of it."

"She embodies the idea of being an ACvocate" said Clayton Parobec, her principal at Three Lakes School, explaining that she has been actively involved in her family farm and is currently enrolled in the Green Certificate Program as a hands on elective to learn more about cow/calf production.

Heidecker looks forward to further exploring this exciting industry as she pursues an Animal Science major at the University of Saskatchewan College of Agriculture and Bioresources this fall. ■

Easy access to federal and provincial agriculture programming

AGPAL
PROGRAM AND SERVICE FINDER

Saskatchewan producers can now take advantage of AgPal, a web-based tool to help producers find information on federal and provincial programs and services that are relevant to them.

This new tool creates a list of programs and services that are customizable for your operation and situation. It is easy to use: simply choose your areas of interest to populate your custom list.

To get started, visit the AgPal website at **http://www.agpal.ca**.

CCIA changes RFID tag system; dealers pay annual fee to fund audit program

Kim McLean, PhD, PAg
Provincial Cattle Specialist

Paul Marciniak, PAg
Livestock Development Specialist
Livestock Branch

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) recently announced changes to improve the efficiency of the radio frequency identification (RFID) tag distribution system. As with the previous tag distribution system, all dealers selling the CCIA tags must sign a Tag Dealer License Agreement. Tag retailers will now pay an annual fee to CCIA upon signing the agreement. The purpose of this fee is to pay for an audit program to ensure dealers are properly issuing tags. This aims to eliminate issues that occurred under the old system in which some retailers failed to notify CCIA when tags were sold and, as a result, some tags were not activated.

There has been some confusion regarding the availability of matched sets of ear tags. These sets include one dangle tag and one RFID tag linked together by printing the last four digits of the RFID tag onto the dangle tag. The dangle tag is used by some producers as a management tag and also preserves traceability information if the RFID tag were to fall out. Until recently, Allflex® was making matched tags available to producers. Allflex® has made the business decision to stop manufacturing matched tags. CCIA has arranged to have Y-Tex® manufacture matched tags. Producers can obtain these matched tags either online or through their conventional retailer if that retailer chooses to stock those tags. If you make the choice to switch to the Y-Tex® matched tag sets, it is important to remember you should also purchase the corresponding tag applicator for Y-Tex® tags.

Allflex® has stopped manufacturing matched tag sets, so the CCIA has arranged for Y-Tex® to take over production.

Prior to these changes, there were more than 1,000 retailers selling CCIA tags. Approximately 750 retailers have signed the agreement and another 150 to 200 retailers have expressed an interest in selling RFID tags.

Producers now have the option of obtaining tags through an online store. All authorized tags are available through this portal and are shipped directly to the producer. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Call the CCIA at 1-877-909-2333l; or
Visit the agency website at www.canadaid.com.

Competitiveness: one of the three pillars of the Livestock Strategy

Grant Zalinko, PAg
Manager, Livestock Development
Livestock Branch

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth was released in 2012 and sets out the Government of Saskatchewan's vision for the province by 2020. Specific to agriculture, the Growth Plan aims to position Saskatchewan as a global leader in food production, food security and food innovation. The Growth Plan identifies increased primary agricultural production and the Ministry of Agriculture has established crop and livestock strategies to achieve the plan's goals.

The Livestock Strategy will guide policy and program development that will achieve the goal of increasing annual livestock farm cash receipts by 25 per cent to more than $2 billion. The reference year has been set at 2012 and it is important to note that the $2 billion threshold has never been exceeded in this province.

The Livestock Strategy consists of three pillars: **Competitiveness, Safeguards** and **Market Expansion**. This article will elaborate on the **Competitiveness** pillar.

The new Western Livestock Price Insurance Program is a good example of a program identified in the Livestock Strategy that would assist cattle and hog producers in managing market price risk. This program should improve **competitiveness** of the cattle and hog sectors as producers can reduce some of the volatility in the marketplace through the purchase of insurance policies to protect against unexpected market price declines.

Research is also an important part of the **Competitiveness** pillar. The need for additional resources for forage research was identified in the Livestock Strategy and the announcement of funding for a new research chair in forage breeding in June 2013 addressed this need. Research projects funded through the Agriculture Development Fund and ADOPT demonstration projects that focus on innovation contribute to the **Competitiveness** pillar.

The Livestock Strategy is a living document and includes action items the Ministry of Agriculture is working on to assist development of the livestock sector. An overview of the Livestock Strategy including examples for the other pillars can be viewed at **www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca**. ■

Livestock price insurance and research are important components of the Competitiveness pillar of Saskatchewan Agriculture's Livestock Strategy.

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Grant Zalinko, Manager, Livestock Development, at 306-787-6607 or grant.zalinko@gov.sk.ca.

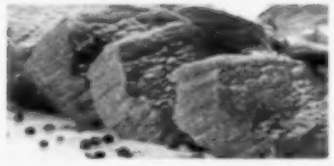
Saskatchewan now has its own domestic meat inspection program

Chris Smith
Food Safety Specialist
Livestock Branch

Saskatchewan Agriculture's Domestic Meat Inspection Program provides voluntary meat inspection to abattoirs and meat processing establishments to help ensure humane handling and food safety. Those licensed in the program must abide by a strict set of program standards.

On January 1, 2014, the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre Inc. (Food Centre) in Saskatoon officially took over the delivery of meat inspection services for those licensed abattoirs and meat processing establishments. Previously, the Ministry had contracted the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to deliver meat inspection services.

Established as a partnership of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Food Processors Association and the University of Saskatchewan, the Food Centre is a non-profit organization offering one-stop full service assistance to food processors.



The Ministry has worked with CFIA staff, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, the Food Centre and the industry to ensure a seamless transition during the take over.

The Food Centre now provides meat inspection services to the 12 licensed meat establishments within the province and formally reports to the Ministry of Agriculture on a regular basis.

The CFIA will still continue to provide meat inspection services to federally registered meat establishments in Saskatchewan. This transition does not affect the Ministry of Health-licensed abattoirs in the province. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Chris Smith, Food Safety Specialist, at 306-787-4692 or chris.smith@gov.sk.ca; or
Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Meat-Inspection-Program.

Catching up late-calving cows

Travis Peardon, BSA, PAg
Regional Livestock Specialist, Outlook
Regional Services Branch

Cows that calve at the end of calving season are a challenge for producers. These cows produce smaller calves simply because they are younger at the time of weaning. Sometimes cows will catch up a bit each year on their own, but not always. Typically, late calvers will always be late calvers. At best they will catch up one cycle each year if nutrition exceeds the cow's needs for maintenance and milk production. With an assumed gestation length of 283 days, this leaves only 80 to 85 days for her to become pregnant again in order to calve at the same time next year. Forty to 50 of those days are required for normal uterine involution and the return to regular estrus cycles post-calving; therefore, only about 40 to 45 days (the length of two estrus cycles) are left before the opportunity for a 12-month calving interval is lost.

Typically, a late-calver will always be a late-calver, but there are techniques that will help them catch up with the rest of the herd.

Facets of commonly used estrus synchronization protocols can be employed to help late-calving cows catch up. Cows should be allowed at least 40 days postpartum to give the reproductive tract enough time to repair itself after calving. On Day 0 (the initial day) of the synchronization, a progesterone-releasing intravaginal implant is placed in each cow. On Day 7, the implant is removed and an intramuscular injection of prostaglandin is given in the neck. Bulls can be turned out at this time. If synchronizing a large group of late-calving cows, it is a good idea to increase the male:female ratio in order to make sure all cows can be bred, as the entire group should come into heat within a few days of each other. This method will not only synchronize cycling cows, but will also bring anestrous or non-cycling cows into heat. If successful, this synchronization method has the potential to let a cow catch up almost two heat cycles. If animals have adequate body condition, a success rate of roughly two-thirds can be expected. Total cost of this synchronization protocol is approximately $20 per head.

For a purebred producer, cows that calve late will likely have offspring too young for the spring bull sale season. Commercial producers benefit by having a more uniform calf crop that is appealing to buyers. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Travis Peardon, Regional Livestock Specialist, at 306-867-5504 or travis.peardon@gov.sk.ca.

Looking for a better dog food

North America's devoted dog owners share everything with their pets, including a sedentary lifestyle and a carbohydrate-rich diet. As a result, North America's dogs are beginning to share in the obesity that is plaguing the human population. Obesity-related issues such as diabetes, cardiovascular and heart diseases and some forms of cancer are a growing problem among both dogs and cats.

Inactivity is part of the problem, but diet also plays a large role. Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan, with the financial help of the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund, set out to find if it was possible to make a better dog food using Saskatchewan-grown ingredients.

Typical commercial dog foods—particularly dry kibble—contain a lot of highly digestible carbohydrates in the form of rice and corn. Peas, on the other hand, have a lower glycemic index (the measure of how quickly blood glucose levels rise after eating certain foods) than either rice or corn, and have been shown to both release glucose more slowly and lower the peak glucose level in dogs. However, all of these studies had used raw, ground peas, and commercial dog foods are extruded and cooked to some degree. The temperature, moisture level, particle size and screw speed used in the extrusion process have been shown to further increase the glycemic index of the corn- and rice-based dog food. The researchers wanted to know if the effect was the same with a pea-based product, and if changing any of these factors could produce a healthier dry dog food.

Peanut and Linus, two of the test beagles. All of the beagles involved in this research have since been adopted.

Using the facilities of the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, the researchers extruded peas under two different temperatures (105 C and 135 C), screw speeds (350 and 450 rpm), moisture levels (20 and 28 per cent) and particle sizes (1/4 in. and 9/16 in.). Then they looked at the amount of rapidly digestible, slowly digestible and resistant starches to determine the effect of the different factors on starch digestibility. The interaction of all the factors had an impact on starch digestibility, but the biggest single factor was moisture level. The peas extruded at the higher moisture level had a lower level of rapidly digestible starch and a lower level of resistant starch.

In order to compare the lab analysis with real life, the researchers then extruded more peas, varying the particle size and temperature, and fed the results to laboratory beagles. The animals' blood glucose levels were measured before feeding and at several intervals after feeding to calculate the absorption and break down of the glucose. They found that the larger particle size resulted in a significantly lower glycemic index. In contrast to their findings in the lab, extrusion temperature had no effect on the dogs' glycemic index, which shows the importance of following up lab tests with real life data.

In a final experiment, the researchers fed the different products to another group of beagles and collected all their feces, urine and leftover feed to check digestibility and nitrogen and energy balance. They found that the small particle/high temperature product was the least digestible of the four options, and resulted in the highest nitrogen and lowest energy retention.

Based on these tests, the researchers concluded that using pea rather than corn or rice starch can produce a healthier dog food, and that the glycemic index of the pea-based product can be further adjusted by controlling the conditions under which the product is extruded. The effects of particle size and temperature are now understood, and research suggests that moisture and screw speed may be able to further influence digestibility and glycemic index. As a result, pea producers may have a new market for their product and North America's pets may be able to live healthier, longer lives.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

In 2014, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada committed $11.2 million in new funding for 73 ADF research projects through Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial territorial initiative. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture research reports page at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ADF/Search and enter the report number #20100104 into the search function.

Don't forget to take advantage of the Grain Bag Recycling Pilot Project this spring

Farmers and ranchers can drop off their grain bags for recycling at collection sites across the province in Cudworth, Hirsch, Humboldt, Kelvington, Macoun, Mankota (twine only), Milestone, Moose Jaw, Mossbank, Oungre, Prince Albert, Rush Lake, Unity and Viscount.

If recycling is not an option, producers should check with their nearest landfill to see if they take used grain bags. Producers can also store grain bags on-farm until a permanent recycling program is available in 2015.

Producers are cautioned not to burn used bags due to the environmental and health hazards this poses. Burning these bags releases highly toxic materials into the atmosphere that could affect water and soil quality.

Under Saskatchewan's Clean Air Regulations, individuals can be charged for burning plastic grain bags. This could result in the Ministry of Environment issuing an Environmental Protection Order to the individual to clean up the site.

For more information on the Grain Bag Recycling Pilot Program, producers can contact Simply Agriculture Solutions Inc. toll-free at 1-866-298-7222 or visit **simplyag.ca/recycling-pilot-project.**

More than $700,000 awarded to 76 new ADOPT projects

Dr. Jeff Braidek, PhD
ADOPT Program Co-ordinator
Agriculture Research Branch

Twenty-one Saskatchewan producer groups are receiving more than $700,000 from the Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) program, under the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 framework, to fund a total of 76 new projects for 2014. These demonstration projects will be getting underway this spring.

The intent of the ADOPT program is to help Saskatchewan producers and ranchers evaluate new agricultural practices and technologies under local conditions. The typical single season, single site demonstration projects are eligible to receive up to $10,000 in funding, but larger projects with replication at multiple sites or projects with an extended time frame can receive additional funding.

This year, the largest single project is the Canaryseed Development Commission of Saskatchewan's demonstration of macro- and micro-nutrients on the yield and development of canaryseed, which is receiving $43,500. This detailed project will demonstrate the utility of 11 different fertilizer treatments at six different locations around the province. At each location, the treatments will be replicated four times. Other large projects include the Prairie Oat Growers' demonstration of the yield response and test weight stability of oat to nitrogen fertilizer ($30,720), and the Rudy Feeder Co-operative's demonstration of double insemination fixed-time artificial insemination to improve the conception rates of beef heifers ($33,580).

Both large and small producer groups are receiving funding; some for single demonstration projects but the majority for multiple projects. The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association is receiving $9,460 for a single project to demonstrate methods of replacing honeybee queens. The Saskatchewan Sunflower Commission is receiving $63,400 for two projects demonstrating appropriate sunflower seeding rates and suitable new mid- and high-oleic hybrid varieties. The East Central Research Foundation is receiving $44,980 for six different projects, and the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation is receiving $47,450 for eight different projects.

Each producer group designs and conducts its own demonstration, but typically the project will directly compare the standard common practice alongside the new practice(s). A complete list of the projects is available on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at **www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/gf2-ADOPT.**

There are two deadlines for the intake of ADOPT applications every year: December 7 and June 7. Successful applications must clearly state what is to be demonstrated and what will be measured, assessed or evaluated to determine the success of the demonstration.

Questions and requests for application forms should be directed to either the **evaluation.coordinator@gov.sk.ca** or Dr. Jeff Braidek, ADOPT Program Manager, at 306-933-6016 or **jeff.braidek@gov.sk.ca**. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact Dr. Jeff Braidek, ADOPT Program Manager, 306-933-6016 or jeff.braidek@gov.sk.ca.

Producers play important role in rat control

Richard Wilkins
Provincial Specialist, Pesticide Regulatory
Crops and Irrigation Branch

Producers play an important role in rat control. By participating in a zero tolerance rat control st**RA**Tegy and partnering with the Provincial Rat Eradication Program (PREP), producers can aid in rat control activities.

PREP has developed a four-pillar producer strategy for rat control: 1) prevention 2) access 3) identification, and 4) reporting.

Prevention – Clear away habitat used by the rat and laying preventative bait.

Rats like their food source, water source and shelter in relatively close proximity. Best management practices suggest keeping yards and agricultural sites clear of potential harborage, such as garbage and debris. Attention should be paid to places such as bale stacks, granaries, rock piles, tall grass and discarded grain piles.

Special attention should be given to grain bags. They provide an excellent source of food, water and habitat. Grain bags that have been left in place for longer than six months, bags stored on sites that have repeatedly had grain bags over the last several seasons and bags that have been discarded at field margins are at a high risk of a rat infestation. So, remember to recycle empty grain bags.

One of the best ways to keep farmyards clear of rats is to clean up sites such as debris piles that offer them shelter.

Remember, rats that escape a cleanup program at one site try to reestablish at another suitable site, more than likely a neighbouring yard. Preventative baiting is a good neighbour policy.

Access – Allow pest control officers (PCO) access to your land for inspections and rat abatement activity.

In the PREP program, all PCOs are trained and licensed. Allowing the PCO to inspect your sites may help prevent an infestation by early detection of a rat problem. The PCO for your rural municipality is also able to assist with preventative baiting and advise on proper baiting techniques.

Identification – Identify and report to the rural municipal administrator all sites that should be inspected, including occupied/unoccupied old buildings, old landfills or private dumping areas on unoccupied land.

PCOs know what to look for in terms of rat activity; they could use your help in identifying where to look.

Reporting – Report all rat sightings to your rural municipality as soon as possible.

Rats are nocturnal animals. If you see rats during the day, it is often an indication of a serious infestation. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Visit the Ag Knowledge Centre website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/AKC; or
Visit the PREP website at prep.sarm.ca/.

New enhancements to the Farm Stewardship Program

Francine Brule
Manager, Grants and Rebate Program
Financial Services Branch

Four new Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) were recently added to the Farm Stewardship Program (FSP). Eligible producers can now access 18 BMPs within six management categories.

The FSP provides eligible Saskatchewan producers with financial assistance to implement beneficial management practices to maintain or improve the quality of soil, water, air or biodiversity.

The four new BMPs are:

- **Riparian Area Grazing Management and Fencing** – 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of $5,000.

  Riparian areas provide important functions such as slowing the flow of water, trapping nutrients and sediments and reducing erosion. To maintain these functions, the timing, intensity and duration of livestock grazing need to be managed. This BMP assists in fencing riparian areas for the purpose of grazing management.

- **Used Oil, Filter and Fluid Storage** – 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of $3,000.

  Assistance for engineering and construction costs associated with pad and berm development to mitigate the risk to soil and water through improved storage of used oil, filters and fluids.

- **Variable Rate Irrigation Technology** – 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of $15,000.

  Variable rate irrigation systems optimize water use by varying the amount of water applied across variable soil and topographical conditions.

- **Variable Rate Mapping** – 30 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of $2,000.

  Variable rate mapping assists producers in creating zone maps for variable rate fertilizer and irrigation applications. When used in conjunction with variable rate application strategies, variable rate mapping can make more efficient use of water and fertilizer and reduce the environmental impact on soil and water.

To be eligible for the FSP, a producer must have an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate or Agri-Environmental Group Plan Statement of Completion endorsed within the past 10 years. Applicants must also own or control a minimum of 320 acres of farmland in Saskatchewan (intensive operations with less than 320 acres may also qualify) and have a gross farm income of at least $35,000. All FSP project work must occur between April 1, 2013, and January 31, 2018. Additional criteria may also be required under each BMP.

Funding for the Farm Stewardship Program is provided under the federal provincial Growing Forward 2 framework, which will see the two levels of government invest $388 million in Saskatchewan on strategic initiatives over five years. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Go to www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca//GF2-FarmStewardship;
Visit a Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office;
Call 1-877-874-5365; or
Email fpbinfo@gov.sk.ca.

Ditch Mowing and Hay Salvage Program: *July 8 key date for producers*

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure reminds producers that hay is available for salvage at no cost in provincial highway ditches.

Before July 8, hay can be cut and baled in ditches by the adjacent landowner. After July 8, this hay can be recovered by anyone without the permission of the adjacent landowner, provided salvage operations haven't begun.

Hay will need to be cut at a uniform height in the ditches and bales must be placed no less than eight metres away from the shoulder of the highway. All hay bales need to be removed by August 8 and if any are left in a location deemed to be dangerous to motorists after that date, they may be removed by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure.

The Ministry is once again planning an early mowing program between June 7 and July 15 along heavily travelled roads. Ministry contractors will mow a four metre-wide swath along shoulders adjacent to highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and 39, along with portions of highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 55. During this time, mowing may also be completed near some highway intersections and interchanges, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

The annual mowing program helps control brush and weeds, which maintains sightlines for motorists on curves and intersections. The program also optimizes snow storage in ditches and will reduce drifting on the road surface during the snowy winter months.

Contractors will conduct regular ditch mowing, cutting the width along all four-lane highways between July 15 and the fall months. The four-metre-wide strip will be mowed adjacent to the other highways with additional mowing possible as required for visibility and weed control. Weather and ditch conditions are key factors in hay salvage and the progress of contracted mowers. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact the nearest Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure office; or
Email communicationsHI@gov.sk.ca.

KEY DATES

- **June 7 to July 15 (Stage I):** Mowing includes a four-metre shoulder cut adjacent to the road on all highways within the Gateway Corridor Network; the National Highway System is included in this category. Some highway intersections may receive a full ditch cut to ensure good sightlines.
- **July 8:** Prior to this date, a landowner or lessee nearest to a highway ditch has the first option to cut or bale hay. After this date, anyone may cut and bale hay or grass in a highway ditch without getting the permission of the adjacent landowner, provided salvage operations haven't begun.
- **Between July 15 to October 15 (Stage II):** Ministry contractors will begin mowing the entire width of ditches along all four-lane highways, while all other highways will get a four-metre cut adjacent to the highway shoulder. Some additional mowing may occur.

Western Livestock Price Insurance Program: How it works

Growing Forward 2

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

The Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) provides producers with protection against an unexpected drop in prices over a defined period of time. Producers pay a premium to receive forward price coverage; if the market price falls below the coverage price, in the time frame selected, the producer receives a payment. Administration costs are covered by the federal and provincial governments through Growing Forward 2. Purchasing livestock price insurance for the first time is a three-step process:

- **Step 1: Complete an Application**
  Producers are required to complete an application. They can do this by downloading the forms from **www.wlpip.ca**, completing the required information and submitting their form to their local Crop Insurance office. Producers can also access forms directly from any Crop Insurance office.
- **Step 2: Application Approval**
  SCIC will review and approve the application and forward it to the WLPIP administrator for processing. Once processed the producer will receive two emails from the WLPIP administrator; one verifying account set-up and another containing the activation key. The activation key is required to purchase policies online. It can take up to 48 hours to receive the activation key.
- **Step 3: Purchase Insurance**
  The producer will use the activation key to establish their online account. This is done through **www.wlpip.ca**. Once an online account is created, the producer is able to purchase policies, monitor premiums and coverage levels, pay premiums and file claims. WLPIP is only set up for online purchasing with a credit card. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) offices are available to assist producers wherever necessary in completing their WLPIP purchases.

Producers can purchase price insurance for their calves, fed cattle, feeder cattle and hogs. The calf product is offered in the spring (February to the end of May) and covers the price risk a cow-calf producer faces selling calves in the fall market. The feeder product covers the price risk a cattle feeder faces when marketing. The fed product is offered year round for cattle being finished in Western Canada. Producers can also purchase a fed-basis option to protect against basis risk.

The hog product offers hog producers protection against a decline in prices over a defined period of time. Hog producers choose from a range of policy lengths and price coverage. These options provide flexibility as producers can insure hog prices at various stages in their hog production cycle.

Producers purchase the insurance for an up front premium, based on the coverage selected. Coverage is based on market driven factors (including currency and basis) and reflect a forecasted price over the length of the policy. Settlement of the insurance is based directly on Western Canadian cattle/hog markets, not on an individual producer's actual sales. Settlement indices are calculated weekly for the cattle products and monthly for the hog product and settlement prices are designed to reflect current Western Canadian prices.

SCIC staff are available to sit down one-on-one with producers to provide more information on how WLPIP works, how to sign up for the program and how to purchase insurance policies. Producers can find more information by visiting their local Crop Insurance office or at **www.wlpip.ca**.

Seeded Acreage Reports

June is the month for SCIC contract holders to report their seeded acres and stored grain. This year, producers may be storing more grain than other years. They are reminded to report all stored grain so it is not counted as new production, in the event the producer is in a claim situation.

SCIC mailed Seeded Acreage forms to customers in May that contained a Stored Grain Declaration form, instruction guide and information on completing your Seeded Acreage Report on CropConnect. CropConnect is a convenient way for producers to enter all seeded acreage and stored grain information from their home computer or mobile device. Producers who have not signed up are encouraged to contact their local Crop Insurance office.

The deadline to submit your Seeded Acreage Report is June 25. Producers have until July 5 to report seeded greenfeed acres. ■

FOR MORE INFO

Contact a local Crop Insurance office;
Call 1-888-935-0000; or
Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

EXAMPLE – Saskatchewan coverage and premium examples based from May 6, 2014.

	Policy Expiry Date	Coverage $/cwt	Premium $/cwt	Coverage $/head	Premium $/head
Calf – 600 lb. steer	September 29	$ 206	$ 2.52	$1,236	$15.12
Feeder – 850 lb. steer	September 29	$ 184	$ 2.09	$ 1,564	$17.77
Fed – 1350 lb. steer	December 22	$ 140	$ 1.44	$ 1,890	$19.44
	Policy Expiry Date	**Coverage $/ckg**	**Premium $/ckg**	**Coverage $/hog**	**Premium $/hog**
Hog – 100 kg hog	July	$ 228	$ 6.78	$ 228	$ 6.78

Events calendar

Date	Event	Location	Phone	Internet
June 15-21, 2014	Native Prairie Appreciation Week	Saskatchewan	306-352-0472	www.pcap-sk.org
June 18-20, 2014	Canada's Farm Progress Show	Evraz Place Regina, SK	306-781-9200	www.myfarmshow.com
June 24, 2014	Western Beef Development Centre Annual Field Day	Termuende Research Ranch Lanigan, SK	306-365-3366	www.wbdc.sk.ca
June 25, 2014	Deadline to submit Seeded Acreage Reports on all crops (excluding greenfeed). Deadline to submit Unseeded Acreage claims. Deadline to report stored grain. Deadline to submit Hive Reporting form. Deadline to submit Stored Honey Report.	Saskatchewan	1-888-935-0000	www.saskcropinsurance.com

Survey says...

Shelley Jones
Manager, Agriculture Awareness Unit
Regional Services Branch

In 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture took part in an omnibus survey to benchmark the public perception of agriculture in Saskatchewan. The results were part of the foundation of the agriculture awareness strategy that aims to improve the public's perception of agriculture, a strategic priority for the Ministry.

The results from 2013 showed that citizens have a positive perception of agriculture in Saskatchewan, but are divided on the necessity of genetically modified organisms to feed a growing world.

This year, the Ministry once again took part in the survey which asked 801 respondents the same 10 questions related to the agriculture industry. The responses were similar to last year and indicate:

- Eighty-five per cent of the population agrees that agriculture is a modern industry that is a major contributor to our economy;
- The vast majority of people, 93 per cent, believe it is important for Saskatchewan children to learn about agriculture in school; and
- Saskatchewan's agriculture industry is viewed by 82 per cent as a global supplier of nutritious and safe food.

While the results of this survey are mainly positive, we still have work to do to enhance the image of agriculture to attract youth, innovation and investment to the industry. Just 69 per cent of respondents agreed that there is a wide choice of career options in the industry. And, only 50 per cent agreed advancements in agriculture, including genetically modified crops, are necessary to feed a growing world population. These results point to the need for further education and promotion of career opportunities all along the food value chain as well as the rigorous regulation of biotechnology and benefits it brings to consumers and the province.

This information, along with industry stakeholder input, will continue to guide Ministry actions. Our emphasis on youth initiatives, including the development of educational resources and experiences and career promotion in the agriculture and agri food industry will continue. Enhanced support for Agriculture in the Classroom, a further expansion of our thinkAG campaign, and more outreach events like Ag in the City will ensure an improved understanding of the social, economic and environmental benefits the sector provides our province's youth. ■

FOR MORE INFO

For complete survey results, visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

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ALSO CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL at WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/AGSASK

Government of Saskatchewan